

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076461

FOL TEL SENT SECSTATE FROM PARIS APRIL 20 TH:

QUOTE: PARIS 11138

NESCO

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XG, XE, XL, XM, US, UNESCO

SUBJECT: U. S. MEMBERSHIP IN EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP OF UNESCO

DEPT PASS ALL NATO CAPITALS EXCEPT PARIS

REF: USNATO 1941

1. RE LAST SENTENCE PARA 2 REFTEL, BERNARD DEHOOG, NETHERLANDS MEMBER OF UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD, WHO JUST RETURNED FROM 2- WEEK VISIT TO ISRAEL, TOLD US PERMREP THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH OFFICIALS OF ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. ACCORDING TO DEHOOG, ISRAEL WOULD LIKE EVENTUALLY TO BE INCLUDED IN THE ASIAN REGIONAL GROUP BUT REALIZES THAT THIS NOT LIKELY TO HAPPEN IN NEAR FUTURE. MEANWHILE, CONFIDENTIAL

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IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN SOME OF UNESCO'S MINISTERIAL- LEVEL MEETINGS, SOME ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE SUGGESTED INCLUSION OF ISRAEL IN EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP. DEHOOG GAVE IMPRESSION THAT HE HAD AGREED TO SOUND OUT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS ON THIS IDEA.

3. COMMENT: THERE ARE ENOUGH VOTES AMONG ARABS, EASTERN EUROPEANS, AFRICANS AND ASIANS ON EXECUTIVE BOARD TO DEFEAT A RECOMMENDATION FOR INCLUSION OF ISRAEL IN ANY REGIONAL GROUP. WHILE WE BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD CHANCE OF OBTAINING A RECOMMENDATION FOR INCLUSION OF US AND CANADA IN EUROPEAN GROUP, THE ADDITION OF ISRAEL AS A THIRD CANDIDATE WOULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE OUR CHANCES. IF DEPT AGREES WITH THIS VIEW, WE RECOMMEND THAT PERMREP BE INSTRUCTED TO SO INFORM DEHOOG. OF THE OTHER TWO POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR INCLUSION IN EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP, AUSTRALIA APPEARS TO BE UNDECIDED AND WILL PROBABLY NOT PRESS AT THIS TIME FOR ITS INCLUSION IN ANY GROUP, WHILE NEW ZEALAND IS STRONGLY LOBBYING FOR INCLUSION IN ASIAN GROUP AND SHOWS NO INTEREST IN EUROPE. INCIDENTALLY, DEHOOG, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF PROGRAM COMMISSION, WHERE THIS ITEM WILL BE DISCUSSED, IS OF OPINION THAT 92 ND EXBD SESSION SHOULD MAKE ONLY PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF THE ITEM AND THAT FINAL RECOMMENDATION SHOULD BE POSTPONED TO FUTURE SESSION. HE POINTS OUT THAT, AS FAR AS EUROPE IS CONCERNED, QUESTION OF INVITATIONS TO 1973 CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN EDUCATION MINISTERS WAS SETTLED AT 91 ST SESSION AND THAT NEXT UNESCO MINISTERIAL- LEVEL CONFERENCE IN EUROPE WILL BE THAT OF MINISTERS OF SCIENCE IN 1975. IRWIN UNQUOTE PORTER

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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